5E LESSON REFLECTIONS

1. What was your favorite part of the lesson and why?

The manipulatives made the concept of algebra more visual. The set using the balance helped set the tone for the lesson.

1. How effective was the lesson in meeting the objective? What was most effective?

Physically moving the pawns around showed the students that the variable has to be by itself no matter what side. The balancing also helped students to understand that both sides must be equal on each side of the equal sign. This was a great way to introduce algebraic equations. Modeling was very crucial to process as well.

1. What parts of the lesson would you change? Why?

We would like to include a die with the operation signs on them or on small pieces of paper. It would also be helpful if the actual balances were not just on paper but there were a way to make it move and show balance with weights representing numbers.

1. Were there any parts that needed more explanation or time? How did you handle these situations?

We needed more time to transfer the process to pencil and paper. The lesson definitely needed to start as basic as possible with just identifying the variable, then finding the value of the missing variable and move into fractions.

1. Did your students find the lesson meaningful and worth completing?

Students made a connection by the teacher writing on the board an algebra problem with a box instead of a letter to represent the variable. The students were also not offered a calculator until it was time to check. Only some students moved onto fractions but most stayed within their ability which was algebra with whole numbers. The students felt comfortable with the content and confident.